



BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Medical Assessment Form

Obligations on Licensed Taxi and Private Hire Drivers to Carry Guide, Hearing and Other Assistance Dogs – Medical Exemption.

Background

The Government is committed to an accessible public transport system in which disabled people can enjoy the same opportunities to travel as other members of society. Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles are a vital link in the accessible transport chain and it is important that disabled people who use guide, hearing or other assistance dogs can have confidence that the taxi/private hire vehicle they find on a rank, or hail on the street, will accept them and carry their dog at no extra charge.

From 31 March 2001 licensed taxi drivers will have a legal duty to carry guide, hearing or other prescribed assistance goods, accompanying a disabled person who has hired his or her taxi and to do so without charge. These provisions are made under Section 37 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. By virtue of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, conditions attached to Private Hire Drivers requires the same from drivers of such vehicles.

However, to enable drivers with certain medical conditions, which are aggravated by exposure to dogs to drive or continue to drive taxis/private hire vehicles, the law includes provisions for drivers to be exempted from these duties on medical grounds.

The licensing authority is responsible for issuing exemption certificates and needs to be satisfied that it is appropriate to do so on medical grounds. In determining whether to issue an exemption certificate the licensing authority will also have to consider the physical characteristics of the taxi/private hire vehicle driven by the applicant, e.g. whether the vehicle has a fixed partition segregating the driver from the passenger compartment.

Please complete the following report and send to:

**Licensing Team
Bedford Borough Council
3rd Floor Borough Hall
Bedford
MK42 9AP**

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For completion by General Practitioner/Specialist:

Patient's Name: _____

Taxi/Private Hire Driver Licence Number: _____

Address: _____

_____ Post Code: _____

Doctor's Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Post Code: _____

In your opinion does this person have a medical condition, which is aggravated by exposure to dogs:

please tick

Yes

☐

No

☐

If "Yes", please give details of condition (and attach copies of any relevant medical reports):

In your opinion is this person's medical condition so severe that he/she should be exempt from carrying dogs in their taxi/private hire vehicle if (please tick):

has no fixed partition between the driver and the passenger compartment:

Yes

☐

No

☐

has a fixed partition between the driver and the passenger compartment:

Yes

☐

No

☐

Doctor's Signature : _____ Date: _____